

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. - 12. (canceled).

13. (new): A method of producing packs (10) which have a separate insert blank (25), made of thin material, arranged in each pack (10) and enclosed by at least one pack blank (11), said method comprising the steps of:

- a) first, placing the insert blank (25) onto the pack (10, 14) at a location corresponding to a final position of the insert blank,
- b) then, electrostatically charging a unit, made up of the pack (10, 14) and the insert blank (25), by electrodes (28, 29), and
- c) then, folding the pack blank (11) around the unit consisting of the pack (10, 14) and the insert blank (25).

14. (new): The method according to Claim 13, further comprising the steps of:

- a) applying the insert blank (25) to a top side of the pack (10, 14) during transport of the pack,
- b) conveying the unit, comprising the pack (10, 14) and the insert blank (25), under an electrode (28, 29), and electrostatically charging the unit from above, and
- c) folding the pack blank (11) around the unit during further transport of the pack.

15. (new): The method according to Claim 13, wherein the pack is a cigarette block (14), said method further comprising the steps of:

- a) during transport of the cigarette block (14) along a pack path formed by a block conveyor (32), providing, from above, the cigarette block (14) with the insert blank (25),
- b) conveying the unit of the cigarette block (14) and the insert blank (25) along the block conveyor (32), feeding the unit to a rotary-driven folding turret (17), and inserting the unit into a pocket (17, 18) of the folding turret (16) in a region of a pushing-in station (33),
- c) placing in the pocket (17, 18) of the folding turret (16) a partially folded pack blank (11),
- d) in the region of the pushing-in station (33), electrostatically charging the unit, comprising the cigarette block (14) and insert blank (25), by electrodes (28, 29) arranged above the pocket (17, 18) of the folding turret (16), and
- e) rotating the folding turret (19), and folding the pack blank (11) around the unit comprising the cigarette block (14) and insert blank (25).

16. (new): The method according to Claim 15, wherein the packs are cigarette packs of the hinge-lid type, said method further comprising the steps of:

- a) in a region of the block conveyor (32), first applying the insert blank (25) to a top side of the cigarette block (14),
- b) then, placing a frame (15) on the unit, comprising cigarette block (14) and insert blank (25), such that the insert blank (25) is partially covered by the frame (15), and

c) after a unit, comprising the cigarette block (14), the insert blank (25) and the frame (15), is inserted into the pocket (17, 18) of the folding turret (16), applying an electrostatic charge by the electrodes (28, 29) arranged above the cigarette block (14).

17. (new): The method according to Claim 13, wherein the insert blank (25) is formed in a number of layers folded in zigzag form, and is electrostatically charged such that the layers of the insert blank (25), as a result of the electrostatic charging, butt closely against one another and are fixed on the pack (10).

18. (new): The method according to Claim 13, wherein the insert blank (25) is elongated, and is electrostatically charged at two end regions thereof.

19. (new): An apparatus for producing cigarette packs (10) each of which has a separate insert blank (25) made of thin material, the insert blank (25) being fed by a coupon dispenser (26) and positioned on the pack (10), said apparatus comprising:

a) a pack conveyor for transporting the packs (10) at a distance from one another along a pack path (41),

b) the coupon dispenser (26) being arranged above the pack path (41) such that an insert blank (25) is placed by the coupon dispenser (26) on a top side of the pack (10);

c) arranged in a direction of the transport of the packs (10) and adjacent to the coupon dispenser (26), a charging electrode (28, 29) directed toward a top side of a unit comprising the pack (10) and the insert blank (25); and

d) means for feeding the electrostatically charged unit of pack (10) and insert blank (25) along the pack path (41) to a wrapping station (40) which applies to the unit an outer wrapper made of film.

20. (new): The apparatus according to Claim 19, wherein there are two charging electrodes (28, 29) positioned in a region of the coupon dispenser (26) such that the two electrodes (28, 29) are positioned on both sides of an end part of the coupon dispenser (26) and are directed towards exposed end regions of the insert blank (25).

21. (new): An apparatus for producing cigarette packs (10) each of which has a separate insert blank (25) made of thin material, the insert blank (25) being fed by a coupon dispenser (26) and positioned on a cigarette block (14) as the pack contents, said apparatus comprising:

a) a pack conveyor for transporting cigarette blocks (14) at a distance from one another along a block path (32),

b) an insert blank (25) being placed by the coupon dispenser (26) on a top side of each cigarette block (14);

c) means for inserting the cigarette blocks (14), along with the insert blanks (25) lying on the top said of the blocks, into pockets (17, 18) of a folding turret (16) in a region of a push-in station; and

d) at least one charging electrode (28, 29) disposed above the pockets (17, 18) of the folding turret (16), which are open at the top, in a region of the push-in station (33) for electrostatically charging a unit comprising a cigarette block (14) and an insert blank (25).

22. (new): The apparatus according to Claim 21, wherein, in the case of double-track operation, the folding turret (16) has two adjacent pockets (17, 18) in the region of the push-in station (33), a partially folded pack blank (11) being arranged in each pocket which accommodates one unit comprising a cigarette block (14), an insert blank (25) and a frame (15), said charging electrode (28, 29) being disposed above each pocket (17, 18) in the region of the push-in station (33).